TIMBER TALK

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

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As I rummaged through some early issues of Timber Talk I became more aware of just how many years Garry Braunwarth has edited our newsletter. He started with issue ONE in 1975, and, except for some short breaks, has been responsible for its output for the better part of the years leading up to 1992! He has done an admirable job over those many years and deserves a medal for his efforts. A BIG THANKS from all of us, Garry.

Talking to Garry last month, he assured me that he will be able to handle issues 9 & 10. Thus, this issue is numbered 11. Hopefully this issue will not clash with September and October issues. I've set a deadline for myself and will try to have it out so members will receive their copy early in December. The distance between Garry and I makes communication either very slow or very expensive. We should be rolling smoothly to start the new year.

My first issue as editor of Timber Talk seemed like a good one in which to include one of our wooden nickels, and of course, this being December, what better choice than a Christmas one? Hopefully the cardboard sleeve will offer some protection to the wood while going through the usual postal tortures. It goes without saying that this sleeve may be used over again by simply inserting your wood and pasting a new piece of paper over the side you've opened. The trick is not to get any glue on the wood.

Just a brief explanation on how I achieved the end product of this nickel: The blanks were first sawn from an oversize dowel, then painted red. The next step was to turn them on a lathe to clean up the edges and bring them all to one diametrical size. The usual stamping operations followed. Not the simplest of methods but we're happy with the results.

I do tend to get somewhat overly artistic with some of my issues but that's one of my many hobbies and it brings me a lot of enjoyment. Next year's holiday wood is already conceived and I have a whole year to play with the design and other work steps.

L.V.

SHAVINGS from the Editor's workbench

Moving the editorship half-way across Canada is bound to have some snags. I feel like a bridegroom abandoned at the altar as I look out at the membership with empty arms. Hopefully, the Timber Talk "basket" will gradually receive some input from the members and I will be able to report some wooden nickel findings in the future. In the meantime I shall do the best I can with what little I have.

In view of the late date of this issue I have decided to combine the months of November and December into one issue. This *should* give me enough lead time to get a fresh start with the new year. The number of issues per year, however, *may* change slightly on a permanent basis. That is, instead of trying to get out 12 issues per year, we might try for 10 or 11 issues. This concept has been tossed around by the executive in the past not only to make the job more manageable, but also as a means of cutting costs.

Whatever the decision on that, readers will be notified so as to be fully aware beforehand on what month or months will be without an issue. Right now it's a kind of wait-and-see situation.

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DUES: Membership dues in the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors is $10.00 per calendar year and should be forwarded to our Membership Chairman - Ron Zelk at P.O. Box 1401 Stn. "B", Downsview, Ont. Canada, M3H 5W3

WHERE'S THE MEET?

Got a local show or meeting coming up in your area? Let me know a month or two in advance so I can get the info out in time for members to hear about it before it's over. Don't feel that a small show or get-together would not be of interest to members nationally, or (internationally, for that matter). A member might just happen to be travelling in your area at the time of the event and would like to drop in and participate.

And after the show is over, what about the results? Let's hear how it went. The aftermath can be interesting too. I haven't had too much success printing pictures but if you have one to spare I'll give it my best shot. Lighter pictures seem to print best.

MY WOODEN NICKEL'S WORTH ..... *by Lou Vesh*

The procurement of wood blanks has always been a thorn in my side for as long as I've been producing wooden nickels. For the most part I've had to manufacture my own, and it is **not** my favourite pastime. There are a number of sources for this product but I've always found them either too expensive or of inconsistent quality. It seems the really good sources of wood blanks are kept a deep dark secret which have, so far, eluded me.

Sawing up the blanks produces mountains of dust which permeates throughout the house and keeps my wife hopping with vacuum cleaner and dustcloth. A dust collector at the saw and a curtain around the stairwell have helped somewhat. Sawing, however, is one of the lesser operations in terms of time consumption. *Turning* is the main step that eats up the hours. The blanks for the 25th anniversary of the Claras of Sioux Lookout, Ont. (April '92) for example, were turned from some white birch firewood which I had sawn and chopped from a huge log. The wood was great, but have you ever thumped out 20 pieces of dowel on a lathe from irregular chunks of firewood? Add 9 to 12 months drying time after turning. There must be an easier way. The search goes on.

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WOOD DONATIONS: Donations of woods for issue to members through Timber Talk are always welcome and much appreciated. Our membership stands at about 135 at present, but because of breakage and other unforseen problems it is best to send 25%-30% over that number. Surplus woods can always be distributed to members in one form or another. For woods that are approximately 1/8" thick by 1 1/2" in diameter, I will, whenever time and material permits, package them in cardboard sleeves for extra protection going through the mails.

CHRISTMAS usually produces a goodly number of new woods. If you have issued a Christmas wooden nickel, would you please send me one, or, failing that, a photocopy of it? I will do my best to publish them in Timber Talk over the next few issues.

I would also be happy to include any info that you would like to pass along regarding your wood. That is, if you have any available for trade, or whatever.

GOT a friend you'd like to send a sample copy of Timber Talk to? Perhaps a prospect for a new member? If you send your request, along with the person's name and complete address, to the editor, a current issue will be sent out. There's always a few extra copies of Timber Talk to spare and I'll be sure to include a membership application form too.

It seems only yesterday that I gave out my first pumpkinickel to the trick or treaters at the door. That was over four years ago! It's scary, the way time whizzes by. Last year's Hallowe'en wood pictured a cat. This year, the fifth and final issue of a 5-year series shows a spider on a web. Both years are shown at right and are still available. In fact, I still have a few 1989 and 1990 issues kicking around. Only the first issue, 1988 (witch), is no longer available. I did, however, put aside 5 or 6 complete sets to be donated to auctions from time to time. They all have a common obverse; a pumpkin which was hot stamped in black and then hand painted by brush with acrylic orange.

The conclusion of the 5-year series is by no means the end of the "pumpkinickel". If all goes well, next year will see a totally different look. That is, both sides will be changed.

L.V.

The wooden nickel pictured at right is one I obtained about 1 1/2 years ago and have never been able to identify. I believed it to be a Canadian wood but so far have not found any listing to reveal its origin. If any reader has a clue regarding the identity of this wood, I would appreciate hearing from him/her.

It is shown actual size, which is about 1 1/4" in diameter, and the printing is black. If there are no responses to my query in the next couple of months I'll try asking in one of the club newsletters south of the border. There is a strong possibility that it could be an American wood. Thanks.

Lou

THE OFFICERS OF C.A.W.M.C. WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS THE VERY BEST FOR THE HOLIDAYS.